QWERTY SCANS

presents

# JUVENILES

## CHAPTER 3

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WHY ARE YOU BEING SO QUIET?

HUH?

YOU DON'T SEEM SURPRISED. AND IT WAS SHE WHO TOO.

IT'S JUST... ANYONE WHO'S MY AGE WOULD THINK A SUDDEN SURPRISE LIKE THAT WOULD BE WEIRD.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? AN AGE GAP OF TWO YEARS IS FINE BE-TWEEN SIBLINGS.
NOT REALLY...

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE WE BOTH KNEW
I WAS GOING TO HOLD BACK ON TELLING YOU BECAUSE I STILL HAD SOME STUFF LEFT TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR FATHER.

NOT MUCH.

THEN WHAT'S WRONG? DOES IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO ABOUT YOU HAVING A NOTE OF ABSENCE TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY?

NO...

THEN COULD IT BE BECAUSE OF THIS AGE GAP BETWEEN YOU?

IT'S NOT THAT...

IT'S NOT LIKE MY OPINION WOULD MATTER ANYWAY.
I'M HOME!
WELL...
YOU WEREN'T EXACTLY THE TYPE TO TELL ME WHETHER OR NOT YOU LIKED SOMETHING SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE.
I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS...
OR JUST THE LACK OF GREED...
BUT STILL...
IT'S ESSENTIAL TO SHOW SOME EMOTION AT TIMES LIKE THIS!
APART FROM ME, IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIKE THIS,
YOUR FATHER WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO EXPRESS HIS HAPPINESS FREELY.
YOU KNOW THAT IT'S IN YOUR FATHER'S NATURE TO ALWAYS CONSIDER YOU.
NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO DO THE SAME FOR HIM.
OH.
...THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS IS A FIRST FOR DAD.
YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT?
...WHAT ABOUT YOU?
EH?
ARE YOU HAPPY, MOM?
...AH.
WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT?

OF COURSE I'M HAPPY.

...BOOK!

WELL... JUST THINKING ABOUT HAVING TO RAISE A KID AGAIN DOES MAKE ME FEEL TIRED, BUT
I'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT YOU WERE LONELY BEING AN ONLY CHILD...
AND SURPRISINGLY, YOU'RE OKAY WITH THE CRIES OF A BABY.

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE FOR A CHANGE OF SPIRIT.

...DO YOU STILL THINK IT'LL BE AWKWARD?

NO, IT'S JUST...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SAW
YOU SMILE LIKE THAT.

-AH.
HEY.

I...

WANTED US TO GO TO SCHOOL TOGETHER.

ARE YOU ACTUALLY AN OUTCAST?

#HUH??
YOU'RE ONLY JUST NOT DOING THIS OUT OF PITY, BUT DOING IT BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BE, RIGHT?

JUST UPSET ABOUT

WHAT YOU SAID THE OTHER DAY.

YOU SAID IT WOULDN'T MATTER WHOEVER WAS BORN.

YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT ME TOO, WEREN'T YOU?

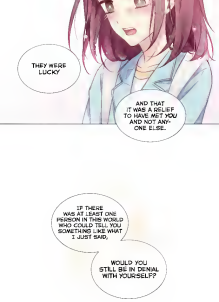
THE ONLY THING SPECIAL ABOUT ME IS THAT I'M MY PARENTS' PROUD DAUGHTER.

WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID, I REALISED THAT YOU WERE ALSO REFERRING TO ME AS WELL.

IF...

IF THERE WAS AT LEAST ONE PERSON WHO NEEDED YOU IN THIS WORLD,
WOULD YOU STILL SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

HUH...?
YOU SAID THAT YOU THOUGHT OF YOURSELF AS A WORTHLESS PERSON.
AND THAT IT WOULDN'T HAVE MATTERED WHETHER OR NOT YOU WERE BORN.


THEN, IF YOU
HAD SOMEONE BY YOUR SIDE WHO COULD TELL YOU
THEY WERE LUCKY
AND THAT IT WAS A RELIEF TO HAVE MET YOU AND NOT ANY-ONE ELSE.

IF THERE WAS AT LEAST ONE HUMAN IN THIS WORLD WHO COULD TELL YOU SOMETHING LIKE WHAT I JUST SAID,
WOULD YOU STILL BE IN DENIAL WITH YOURSELF?

WHA... WHAT Y'M TRYING TO SAY IS
...I'D

...IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, THEN

...CAN'T I BE THE ONE TO BE BY YOUR SIDE?

I REALLY DON'T GET WHY

YOUR PARENTS ARE GIVING YOU SO MUCH FREEDOM...

HUH?

WELL... THEY SHOULDN'T ASK FOR MORE THAN WHO YOU ALREADY ARE.

Do you like going up to the school rooftop?

I like it there in the morning when there's no one else around

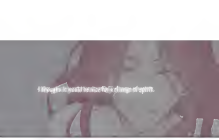
In that so?

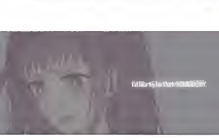
Well then, let's go there to talk again some other time

There might be rumors about you if we hang out

I don't care.

Plus, it wouldn't matter even we're friends





'BECAUSE IT WAS YOU.'
THAT IT WAS A RELIEF... TO HAVE...
CREAK

YOU'RE FINALLY HERE.

YOU'VE FINALLY RETURNED.

...YOU...

WE SHOULD PICK UP
FROM WHERE WE LEFT OFF.

WHERE YOU... FOLLOWING ME?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LEFT
BEFORE THE STORY ENDED.

STORY? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE...

Your now is by adding
will not be coming

IT CAN'T BE...

DID YOU KNOW
THAT MY MOTHER WAS GOING TO HAVE A BABY?
WOO
SH
DO YOU KNOW OF A TALE?
A TALE THAT TAKES PLACE IN A WORLD
WHERE BABIES ARE GATHERED TO DREAM OF BIRTH.
ALL OF THEM LIVING HAPPILY.
WHILE EVERY ONE ALIVE, LONGING TO COME OUT TO THIS WORLD.

BUT THERE WAS ONE CHILD IN PARTICULAR.

A CHILD WHO HAD A DEEPSEE LOATHING FOR SADNESS.

HE COULDN'T EVEN BEAR TO HEAR THE SOUND OF SOMEONE CRYING.

FOR HE DID NOT WISH TO BE SAD HIMSELF.

HE BEGGED FOR THE SOUND TO DISAPPEAR PERMANENTLY.

BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE BEGGED, IT WAS NO USE.

AFTER THE CHILD CAME TO REALIZE THAT THE OUTSIDE WORLD WAS JUST THE SAME,

AND REGRETTED TO HAVE EVER BEEN BORN.

'IF I HAD KNOWN THIS FROM THE BEGINNING, I WOULD HAVE NEVER CHOSE TO COME OUT.'

...!

Those people...

...really do know who I am.

WHO... ARE YOU PEOPLE?

AND ABOUT MY LITTLE SIBLING... WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?

...AND SO THE BAD CHILD THOUGHT

IF ONLY

SOMEONE HAD TOLD ME.

MAYBE, IF ONLY SOMEONE HAD STOPPED ME, BEFORE I CAME OUT TO THIS WORLD.

OR,

IF ONLY CHILDREN WERE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN BEING BORN OR NOT.

BUT THIS TIME, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE CHILD'S

PRAYER WAS HEARD FROM ABOVE.

THE DOOR THAT CONNECTS BOTH WORLDS HAS MOVED SLIGHTLY,

AND HAS NOW CLOSED PERMANENTLY.

NOW, ALL THE CHILDREN THERE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO COME OUT TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

THEY WILL BE LOCKED AWAY, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM NEVER TO BE SEEN.

AND AMONGST THEM ALL,

IS YOUR LITTLE SIBLING WHO WILL BE THERE TOO.

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